

AIR WAISTCOATS.

A VERY beneficial Contrivance, and universally allowed to be the most PERFECT SECURITY AGAINST DROWNING. It being the latest, and indeed the only Invention that is sufficiently buoyant, to prevent drowning in bad Weather, in the most tempestuous Sea. As the most buoyant of all the other Inventions will sink, with 23lb. and an Air Waistcoat will buoy up more than an 190lb. and are much more soft and pleasant to the Wearer, and less cumbersome, and when rolled up are contained in less Space, than any of the least buoyant of the other Inventions. This Invention has received the highest Honours from the best Judges of Sea Matters in *Great Britain*, viz. The honourable and respectable Gentlemen elder Brethren of the *Trinity-House, London*, many Gentlemen, Sea Officers of Rank, Admirals and Captains of the Royal Navy at *Portsmouth*, as likewise many of the most able and experienced Pilots at *Dover, Deal, Ramsgate, &c. in Kent*, and at *Tarmouth and Lynn, in Norfolk*, and other Places, and many honourable and respectable Gentlemen, Members of Parliament, &c. Spectators of frequent Exhibitions, all of which have signified their highest Approbation in their own Hand Writing, and the honourable Board of Trustees for encouraging Fisheries and Manufactories in *Scotland*, have likewise conferred Honours and Gratuities, with Certificates of Approbation on the Inventor, for this and other of his Inventions; which said Board are composed of the most enterprizing and judicious Gentlemen of ample independent Fortunes of that Country, and who took great Pains for three Years together to investigate and elucidate the Merit of his sundry Inventions; and likewise the Lord High Admiral, and the principal Sea Officers, the Nobility, and most eminent Professors of the Kingdom of *Denmark*, have took Cognizance of, approved, rewarded, and recommended the Inventor to the College of Commerce at *Copenhagen*, who honoured him with Premiums and honorary Medals and Tokens of their Approbation, under the great Seal of the said College, with other great Favours, all of which most amply demonstrate their great Use and Benefit.

This Invention is singularly useful to all Sea-faring Persons, without Exception, whether long or short Voyagers, and it is the Opinion of the above great Authority, that not any that can afford to purchase them, should go to Sea without them, as it must certainly be thought presumptuous, to neglect the Means of Preservation, when in their Power to use it: And the above Honourable Gentlemen, have themselves been pleased to honour the Inventor with their Custom, purely for the Encouragement of Ingenuity. As these Waistcoats divest the Wearers of all Fear, when in the Water, they are exceedingly proper, to learn the Art of Swimming with; as a Person may lay in any Position he pleases, and get the Stroke at his own Leisure. These Waistcoats are to be had of the Inventor, WILLIAM COBBE, at No. 1, in *Duke-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, London*, at 2l. 12s. 6d. each.

N. B. Any of the Nobility or Gentry, desirous of seeing the Air Waistcoats, and having their Uses explained, may be attended at their own Houses, one Hour for 1s. and if the Use of it be desired for Bathing, it may be had for 2s. 6d. which Money will be returned, on the Party's becoming a Purchaser.

*Some particular Observations relating to the Uses of the Air Waistcoats, humbly submitted to the Consideration of
the Judicious Friends to Meritorious Inventions, throughout the World, (viz.)*

I. **T**HEY are exceedingly useful in Summer for Bathing, being the most pleasing Invention that can be imagined for that Purpose, as it divests the Wearers of all Fear, by which Means they are very readily taught the Art of Swimming.

II. And in Winter, as a Security at the Time of sliding or skating on the Ice, or crossing Rivers, Ditches, or any frozen Waters, in case the Ice should break, the Wearer would be prevented from sinking under it, and could very easily recover himself.

III. If the above Waistcoats were carefully kept in any Family, Recourse might be had to them for the Relief or Recovery of any Person or Thing accidentally falling in the Water, either in Wells, Ponds, Bogs, or Rivers, &c. by which Means many Lives of Men or Beasts might be saved, or Valuables recovered, and for that Reason very useful and necessary to be kept in every genteel Family, or even every Farm-house of Credit in the Country, whether near the Sea or not.

IV. If near the Sea, when any Persons are taking their Diversion of Fishing or Shooting by the Shore-Side, and should be overtaken or surrounded by a Flood-Tide, they would not be stopped by any Creeks or Swamps being filled with Water, as they might all be crossed with the greatest Ease by such with an Air Waistcoat on, as the natural Position of a Person in the Water is to swim upright with this Invention, but can swim in any Position they please.

V. And the frequent Misfortunes attending the distressed Mariner, as well as the above-mentioned Purposes, will call aloud to the humane and compassionate for their Aid; for in case of a Ship's stranding, or being blown on Shore, which often happens in bad Weather, a Person with one of these Waistcoats on, would be able to yield them great Relief, either by taking a rope on Shore from the Ship, which often is the Means of saving the whole Crew, or by lending his timely Aid to the weak Efforts of such poor Seamen, as would not be able to reach the Shore, or recover themselves without Assistance.

VI. From the above, it will evidently appear, how very useful they would be on board Ship; for on a Vessel's being blown on Shore, as above observed, a Person having an Air Waistcoat on, would be likewise blown on Shore by the same Wind, and could not long keep the Sea if he would, but would gain the Shore with the utmost ease, and even lend Assistance to others in Distress, at the same Time.

VII. The said Waistcoats would likewise be very useful for a Boat's Crew, that should be obliged to go on Shore from thy Ship, at Times when there were so great a Surge as to endanger the Boat's oversetting, or filling with Water, which is frequently the Case; and the Crew of such Boat are often lost, who would most assuredly have been saved, if they had used the Air Waistcoat at those Times.

VIII. And at the Time of a Ship's sounding at Sea, a Person with an Air Waistcoat on, stands a much better Chance of being taken up by another Vessel passing by, than if he was forced to swim on a Piece of Plank, or on any Piece of Wood he could get, as he would swim with more Ease, and much longer; although the Chance would be a bad one in either case of being taken up, yet it sometimes happens they are. But if a ship either founders, or takes fire in Company, the Air Waistcoats are a certain Means of Safety.

IX. It frequently happens on a Ship's being blown on Shore, or proving leaky, that she is deserted by the Crew in their Boat, which before it gains the Land is often overset, and the Men are lost, and the Ship sometimes floats off again, or is taken up at Sea and saved, which if the Air Waistcoats were generally used, the Men would abide by the Vessel to the last Extremity, being well assured of their Security at the worst of Times, and knowing if the Ship were lost, or they left her, they would lose all their Wages; so that they would use their utmost Efforts to save her; by which Means, many a Ship and Cargo would be preserved, to the great Benefit both of the Merchant and Mariner.

X. The Consideration of the above, it is hoped, will be sufficient Inducements for promoting the establishment and general Use of so excellent an Invention, especially, as the Price, Two Guineas and a Half, once in a Person's Life, can be no Object to any Family of any Degree of Credit, or even a prudent common Sailor, who if he should never have Occasion to use it, ought to be thankful for his good Fortune, and if he should, he would have in his Possession, a certain Means of Safety.

Description of the AIR-WAISTCOAT.

It is made of Leather, and lined or covered with Cloth outside and in, and is in Form of a short Waistcoat, without Sleeves or Flaps, but with double Sides; the Inside fit the Body, and laces before, having a long Leather Strap behind at the Bottom, to be brought under the Crotch between the Thighs to the fore Part, to be secured by the Lace being put through a Hole in the said Strap, to prevent the said Waistcoat from slipping up when in the Water; having a large Leather Bag fixed before, with a Leather Tube, and a Brass Cock in it, to be filled with Air when on the Person by his blowing into the said Cock, which said Bag has Communication with the left Outside of the Waistcoat by Means of a short Leather Tube, and the left Outside communicates with the Outside of the Back of the Waistcoat by a Leather Communication, as do the Back to the Outside by a similar Communication, by which Means they all fill with Air, by blowing into the Brass Cock above-mentioned, in about One Minute. The said Outides are bigger than the Insides, and hang loose before blown up, and capable of containing a Quantity of Air sufficient for buoying up near two Hundred Weight when filled, the Leather being first prepared by Means of a certain Ingredient for holding Air, before it is wrought up, and the Seams secured in a particular Manner for the same Purpose. The above Invention has taken the Inventor near Twenty Years Time, and very great Expence, in the contriving, and would take any Person six Months Instructions for attaining the Knowledge of the Secret, which is particularly necessary to be known before he would be capable to undertake the making the said Air Waistcoats to Perfection.